10.   (Amended)   The process of Claim 1, wherein substantially all of the suspended colloidal constituents and particulate constituents [components] are separated from the partially digested influent stream [without adversely affecting the anaerobic bacteria].

11.   (Amended)   The process of Claim 1, further comprising a step of elutriating soluble products of digestion from the [anaerobic bacteria by contacting the bacteria with dilution water or a dilute influent stream] particulate constituents.

Please cancel Claim 12.

REMARKS

Claims 1–14 are pending in the subject application. Claim 12 has been canceled above, and, accordingly, Claims 1–11 and 13–14 remain active.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended above to more clearly recite that the <u>active</u> anaerobic bacteria in the first reactor is provided from a second anaerobic reactor as defined in the claim. Support for this amendment to Claim 1 can be found in the present specification beginning at page 4, line 35.

Claim 10 has been amended to delete reference to the "adversely affecting" language noted as being objectionable in the Examiner's Action.

Claim 11 has been amended to more clearly recite that the elutriation step removes soluble products of digestion from particulate constituents.

The Examiner's Action rejects Claims 1–14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner's Action indicates that Claim 1 does not clearly indicate that a two-stage anaerobic digestion process is contemplated. As amended, applicant asserts that independent Claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom now clearly recite a first anaerobic reactor and a second anaerobic reactor. In addition, Claim 10 was objected to for using the phrase *adversely affecting*. As noted above, applicant has amended Claim 10 to delete the